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Abdullah Kurdi

metroNEWS

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2015

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The little boy who made the world 'wake up'

 **Emily Jackson**
Metro | Vancouver

Three-year-old Alan Kurdi was excited to go on a boat ride.

The toddler, who was always giggling, was especially delighted when a mist of water sprayed his face on the boat that promised to smuggle about a dozen Syrian refugees living in Turkey, including his family, to Greece, which was to be the next stop for the Kurdis in their futile attempt to seek refuge with family in Canada.

"Alan was laughing his head off and he said, 'Oh, that's cold,'" his aunt Tima Kurdi recounted from a conversation with the youngster's father, her brother Abdullah. She lives in Coquitlam, B.C.

The next morning, the world woke up to a photo of Alan's lifeless body washed up on a Turkish

beach. A wave hit the boat, causing it to flip over in a disaster that killed at least 12 people, including Alan's five-year-old brother Ghalib and his 26-year-old mother Rehan. His father Abdullah survived.

Splashed on front pages and screens around the world, the image of the young boy prompted cries for more action on the crisis. Canadian leaders interrupted their campaigns to address the tragedy and Alan's connection to Canada.

Alan and his brother were born in Kobani, a Syrian town on the Turkish border, their aunt Tima told reporters at her suburban home, where she was hoping her family would live if they were granted refugee status.

Tima, a hairdresser, has been in Canada since 1992. Her family owns land in Kobani, where they grow olive trees and relatives gather every summer. It was there that Abdullah, a barber, first met Re-



Alan Kurdi THE CANADIAN PRESS

han, a seamstress, when he was helping tend the trees.

The pair were married and lived in Damascus before moving back to Kobani when Rehan was expecting their first son, Ghalib.

It's not clear exactly when the family fled to Turkey, but in a letter to Chris Alexander, Canada's citizenship and immigration minister, Tima hints at a treacherous journey where her family encountered rebels. She called their situation desperate and wrote it was impossible for them to return to Syria to get the documents Canada requires to accept refugees.

In the meantime, they lived with another Syrian family in Turkey, with Tima sending money to pay the bills. Abdullah did "everything in his power" to make enough money to feed his family, doing his best to get into construction work.

Tima last saw her nephews on a trip to Turkey in 2014. Alan was

a happy baby, always giggling in the background when Tima spoke to her relatives on the phone. His favourite food was bananas, and the week before they left on the boat, he asked his aunt to buy him a bicycle. He was curious to know if there were lots of toys in Greece.

Tima said the family wants the world to take action.

"That's what Abdullah said to me: 'It's OK, it has to be my kids and my wife to wake up the world. It's OK. So maybe the others will be safe ... it's written to happen.'"

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Syrian refugee crisis
8 pages of coverage inside

- **Halifax Syrians demanding action, pg. 3**
- **Harper says policy change isn't enough, pg. 14**
- **World notices Canada's role in tragedy, pg. 16**

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‘This child died in vain’

TRAGEDY

Syrian group in Halifax calls on Ottawa for more action



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

It wasn't the first time Mohamed Masalmeh had seen an image like that.

A Syrian citizen living in Halifax — while hundreds of his family have been killed by the bloodshed of war — he's seen dozens of pictures of murdered children, even relatives, some of whom died from torture.

But there was a different tragedy he saw captured in the photograph of a Turkish police officer carrying the lifeless body of Alan Kurdi, a young boy who drowned with numerous other Syrian refugees attempting to escape to Greece.

"I'm a guy who really loves the beach. I love going to the ocean," Masalmeh explained Thursday.

"After I saw this picture, I don't know if I'm ever going to look at a beach the same way again.

"Just the suffering. The horror this kid went through."

For the past few years, Masalmeh and others have tried to echo the sounds from inside Syria through the efforts of their non-profit group, Justice and Freedom for Syria.

Millions of Canadians have since opened their eyes to the horrors of the Syrian refugee



Mohamed Masalmeh, posing for a photo in Bedford on Thursday, has lost many family members in Syria. JEFF HARPER/METRO



Just the suffering. The horror this kid went through.

Mohamed Masalmeh

crisis since images of Kurdi's tiny body have circulated the globe, with news on Thursday that a relative in British Columbia may have petitioned Citizenship and Immigration for asylum on the family's behalf and been denied.

That red tape is familiar to

Masalmeh, who worked for more than a year to sponsor one of the first Syrian refugee families to come to Nova Scotia last November. The paperwork process began in October 2013, with the documents requiring to be sent back several times for minor cor-

rections, he explained.

The family was "to the point where they lost hope of coming," he recalled Thursday.

"And they (were) thinking about even going back into Syria and just getting killed or captured."

With our country left grappling with the question of what more could have been done, Masalmeh believes it's time Ottawa's top brass look down

at their own hands, which he feels are dirtied with some of the blood of a child's death.

"That makes me feel guilty because I'm part of this country. I'm a taxpaying person," he said.

"Part of the decision to reject them, we are all part of that decision and it makes me pretty sad that we couldn't help that kid have a life, and yet if any of our children gets a little cut by glass, we'd be all up in arms."

IMMIGRATION

Province willing to take more refugees

Nova Scotia's deputy premier says the province is willing to accept more refugees but hasn't heard back from Ottawa.

Diana Whalen said Thursday that the province told federal officials earlier in the summer that it was willing to help and is now reiterating that position.

Whalen said the issue is important and more should be done.

"I think Canadians and Nova Scotians would like to see our country step up and do more."

Nova Scotia has the ability to accept more refugees, she added.

"We've made it clear we want to open our doors and accept more," Whalen said.

She said the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia, which provides refugee support services in the province, has the facilities and the ability to support refugees. The organization is funded by the provincial government.

The number of refugees who are allowed to come to Canada became a federal campaign issue Thursday over a three-year-old Syrian boy whose lifeless body put a devastating human face on the refugee crisis in that country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Diana Whalen

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Halifax Rainmen centre Nigel Spikes celebrates his slam dunk over the Windsor Express earlier this year. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Hoop dreams coming true

BASKETBALL

Team hopes to rebuild image, fan base, under new ownership



Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

Fans won't have to dole out as much dough to see professional basketball in Halifax this coming season.

Cheaper ticket prices are among many improvements 25 local investors say they're making to the local National Basketball League of Canada franchise, which under its former name filed for bankruptcy this summer after seven years in the league.

But the new team won't be called the Halifax Rainmen, lead investor Don Mills said Thursday at a press conference in downtown Halifax.

"We are very pleased to be able to announce today that there will be an NBL team in Halifax this year," Mills, chairman and CEO of Corporate Research Associates, told media gathered inside the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame.

"We need a fresh start," Mills said, adding the new team name will be announced in the near future. The company that will own and operate the team is called Halifax Professional Basketball Club, Inc.

Mills, previously on the Halifax Rainmen advisory board, said it was less than a week



Andre Livingston speaks to the crowd at the Scotiabank Centre last season. JEFF HARPER/METRO

and a half ago that "we determined that we have sufficient financial backing."

Other key business leaders helping keep pro ball here include Eastlink CEO and vice-chairman Lee Bragg, Simply Cast CEO Saeed El-Darahl, Grant Thornton partner John Carruthers and Office Interiors CEO Jim Mills.

Mike Brien, regional head of MacDonald Chisholm Trask Insurance, will serve as interim CEO, Mills said, adding the new company has come up with a business plan that should see profit within three years.

"We believe there (are) at least 40,000 basketball fans who are prepared to come to

+ NEW SEASON

The new National Basketball League of Canada season will start in late December. It previously started in early November.

at least one game this year," he said. "If that were to happen, we would increase our paid attendance by 80 per cent over last year."

That would mean an average attendance of 2,000 per game, with the break-even point between 1,600 and 1,700 fans.

Former Rainmen owner Andre Livingston is staying on to head up basketball operations, which means he'll manage the product on the floor.

"There is a market for professional basketball in our city," Mills said. "We think it's completely achievable."



We are very pleased to announce today that there will be an NBL team in Halifax this year.

Don Mills, lead investor of Halifax's NBL team

LABOUR DAY

What's open, closed on the long weekend

There won't be any grocery stores, malls or banks open on Labour Day Monday in Halifax, but if you need a prescription filled, you're in luck.

Drug stores like Lawton's and Shoppers Drug Mart are some of the only retailers open on the holiday, though some have reduced hours and those inside malls won't be

open.

All NSLC locations will be closed Monday, but independent stores Bishop's Cellar, RockHead and the Cold Beer Store in Burnside will be open.

Many craft breweries will be open as well, but it's best to call ahead to confirm.

All Halifax public libraries are closed for the day, and so

are Canada Post offices.

Halifax Transit buses and ferries will be running on holiday schedule, and on-street metered parking is free.

If your garbage or compost normally gets picked up on Monday, the city says you should put it out for Saturday morning.

The Otter Lake Waste Management Facility will be

closed Monday, along with the city's other composting and recycling depots.

The city's 311 call centre will be operating on regular hours Monday, but its five customer service centres will be closed.

And the city says most of its recreation facilities will be closed, but it's best to call ahead to confirm. METRO

IN BRIEF

Potentially harmful drugs stolen from hospital: Police

Halifax police say potentially dangerous drugs were stolen from the Queen Elizabeth II hospital on Wednesday. Police say the drugs are dangerous if used inappropriately, and they're asking for the public's help in recovering them. They ask anyone with information to call police or Crime Stoppers. METRO

Teens charged with robbery

Two 16-year-old boys are facing charges after a robbery in Lower Sackville on Wednesday morning. Investigators arrived to find a 16-year-old male had been robbed by two other 16-year-old males. Both suspects were charged with robbery. One youth was also charged with failure to comply with conditions and appeared in court on Thursday. METRO

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NOVA STAR CRUISES

Ferry to Maine viable in 3 years: CEO

Nova Star Cruises made its case to continue as the ferry service that links Nova Scotia to Maine on Thursday, saying it believes it can become financially viable within the next three years.

CEO Mark Amundsen told the legislature's economic development committee that his company expects to meet the 80,000 passenger threshold to make the company viable within that time.

The goal had been to reach that target this season, but figures released earlier this week show passenger traffic is down over this time last year, and projections are for the ferry to hit the 60,000 passenger mark — a figure similar to last year's total.

"We have to build collectively and collaboratively with Nova Scotia Tourism to get the ridership up," said Amundsen.

To make the service sustainable, Amundsen said, Nova Star is working on a long-term cost plan that includes a switch to natural gas as fuel and is also increasing its marketing efforts in New England.

Amundsen said the service would still need help from taxpayers but that the amount would be less in future years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The inconvenient truth is the ridership hasn't been up.

CEO Mark Amundsen

'It's an amazing tribute'

CEREMONY

Halifax ferry named after fallen sailor Craig Blake

Heide Pearson
For Metro | Halifax

Priscilla Blake and sons Cain and Ty stood by as their husband and father were honoured with the unveiling of Halifax Transit's newest ferry,

the Craig Blake, on Thursday morning.

"It's an amazing tribute, and to know it's something my kids, my grandkids even could sail on, it's a great tribute, a great honour," Priscilla said.

Petty Officer Second Class Craig Blake was part of the elite Canadian Clearance Divers of Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic and a bomb-neutralizing specialist. He was the first Canadian sailor killed while serving in Afghanistan in 2010.

Blake was described by many at the ceremony as a family man who was very in-

involved with his children and loved to give back to his community.

"It's just kind of surreal to have something so big that so many people are gonna see with that name on it," said Cain Blake.

The name Craig Blake was selected from 500 names that were nominated by residents of the city last year.

Mayor Mike Savage, along with Eddie Robar of Halifax

Transit and members of the Canadian Clearance Divers of Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic, were at the ferry terminal for the ceremony.

Savage said he hopes the Craig Blake will not only improve transit service but also be a reminder of the service of Canadian men and women.

"I hope during the ride across this great harbour, passengers will use the time to remember Craig Blake

and remember Christopher Stannix and to think about service to community and what it does for a community," said Savage, in reference to another ferry named after a Nova Scotia soldier who died.

"Craig spent so much time in the harbour — it's where he worked, right here — so it's very fitting," said Priscilla in an interview after the ceremony.

The Christopher Stannix was unveiled in May of last year in memory of Master Cpl. Christopher Stannix, who was also killed fighting in Afghanistan.

5

The Craig Blake is the fifth ferry in Halifax's fleet and is expected to start sailing as early as Monday.



Priscilla Blake, middle, stands with members of the elite Canadian Clearance Divers of Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic on the Halifax waterfront Thursday.

HEIDE PEARSON/FOR METRO

WASTE COLLECTION NOTICE GARBAGE/ORGANICS/RECYCLABLES

Labour Day

Please be advised that there will be no garbage, organics or recyclables collection services on Labour Day, Monday, September 7th, 2015. Collection services for that day will be provided the preceding Saturday, September 5th, 2015.

Collection Services can begin as early as 7am. To ensure collection please place materials curbside the evening prior to collection day.



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No Collection Canada Day Monday, September 7th	➔	Collection will occur the preceding Saturday, September 5th
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HRM Recycling Plant Closed Monday, September 7th	➔	HRM Recycling Plant Open Saturday, September 5th 7:30am - 6pm
Household Special Waste Depot Closed Saturday, September 5th	➔	Household Special Waste Depot Open Saturday, September 12th 9am - 4pm



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RADIO

Hot Country station launches

Heide Pearson
For Metro | Halifax

If you turn your FM radio dial to 103.5 now, you won't be hearing Top 40 hits.

Instead, you'll get some country twang.

The Halifax-based radio station Energy 103.5 has changed its playlist from the mainstream pop and rock Top 40 hits to contemporary country songs.

The changeover began officially Thursday at 4 p.m.

Trevor Romkey, general sales manager at Energy 103.5 and Live 105, said in the past couple of years listeners are "splitting time" spent listening between Energy other similar stations

like 89.9 The Wave, 92.9 Jack FM and 101.3 The Bounce.

Romkey said the country station FX 101.9 plays a "mish-mash of older and newer country," and constantly ranks highly with similar audiences.

"That, of course, told us there was an opportunity," Romkey said.

The new station will be called Hot Country 103.5, and Romkey says the new name is



Times are changing at 103.5.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

the format.

"Hot Country is sort of the hottest new format sweeping across North America and the idea is to approach country from a youthful, energetic standpoint," he said.

After doing some market research, and considering Canadian Music Week is coming to Halifax next week, Romkey said it was a perfect time to change directions.

"It just seemed time to introduce a new country to Halifax," said Romkey. "This isn't cowboys and mechanical bulls radio station, this is a mainstream station that just happens to be a country station."

Hot Country 103.5's program director will be Jason (JD) Desrosiers, who launched the Live 105 brand.

CRIME

Robbery suspect in custody

Halifax police say a man and woman were robbed in the city's south end on Wednesday night.

Police say at about 11:30 p.m., the couple was walking in the 5600 block of South Street

when they were approached by a strange man.

He began pushing and shoving them, and demanded their money.

He fled the scene, but was

quickly located by police.

The 21-year-old man was arrested and was expected to appear in Halifax provincial court Thursday to face a charge of robbery. METRO



CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGINS ON MACDONALD BRIDGE Equipment is in place on Thursday on the MacDonald Bridge as crews began lowering its sections. The site will be closed to traffic. JEFF HARPER/METRO

City seeking input on recreation plan

COMMUNITY

Residents can give feedback at meetings, online



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

If you've always wanted a playground in your neighbourhood, or hope to see an art room or lockers added to your local recreation centre, the city wants to hear from you.

Since January, Halifax city staff have been working on the Community Facility Master Plan with feedback from sports groups and organizations who use the facilities regularly.

It was last updated in 2008, and throughout September there will be eight public meetings and an online survey for the public to weigh in on what recreation improvements they'd like to see, and what they want to preserve.

"There's a lot to consider,"

Betty Lou Killen, recreation-planning specialist, said.

"Ensuring when folks have time for leisure and recreation, it meets the needs of not just our sport community, but our young families, our young people, our aging demographic, our new immigrants."

Killen said the plan will help shape council's decisions on major capital projects over the next few years, and recent builds like the BMO Centre came about as a direct result of the last plan that showed a need for that kind of facility in Bedford.

The aging facilities are a concern that keeps coming up from the public, Killen said, so it's important the city knows which buildings should be high priority so investment can be made in new ones, like the four-pad coming to Dartmouth.

"These are the quality of life components that people want to have in their communities," Killen said. "You want to be able to have green space, and walkability, and a nice facility that you can go to."

For the first time the plan will take playgrounds, tennis courts and splash pads into account, which Coun. Jennifer Watts said is great because they're specific facilities that impact people on a daily basis.

"It will allow not only the big-picture thinking about things like the multi-use fields or the Oval ... but also the very specific type of recreation facilities that make neighbourhoods," Watts said.

Public meetings begin Sept. 16, and a full schedule with the online survey will be found at halifax.ca/facilities/CFMP.



Ensuring when folks have time for leisure and recreation, it meets the needs of not just our sport community, but our young families, our young people.

Betty Lou Killen

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New president, CEO named at United Way

Crocker also received an honorary degree from the school in Antigonish in 2012. THE CANADIAN PRESS

0%**

TOYOTA

'Step in and help the refugees'

metr The Syrian Crisis The Tragedy

Aunt speaks out about family's plight seeking asylum

The aunt of two drowned Syrian boys recalled her brother's harrowing battle to save his sons at two emotional news conferences Thursday in Coquitlam, B.C., and said the tragedy would help wake people up and pay attention to the migrant crisis.

"Now the whole world is going to watch my story. Where was all the world before when my kids were hungry? When I didn't have a job?" said Tima Kurdi.

"I want to tell the rest of the world, at this point, to step in and help the refugees."

Kurdi said her brother Abdullah described to her the horror of the boys dying in his arms and screamed: "Please don't die!" at their lifeless bodies.

"He said he tried with all his power," she said.

Kurdi addressed the media twice Thursday, in order to clarify her family's plight seeking asylum in Canada.

She had applied for refugee status in Canada for her brother Mohamad, and planned to apply for Abdullah next. But when Mohamad's application was denied, she knew there was no hope bringing Abdullah here.

Kurdi said she started Mohamad's application first because his children were older and needed to be in school.

"It was really bad to tell them



Fatima Kurdi speaks to reporters outside her home in Coquitlam, B.C., on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

this ... 'I'm sorry I can't bring you here,'" she said.

Mohamad settled in Germany, and Abdullah wanted to follow with his own family. But Abdullah's wife was scared of the perilous journey across the water to Greece, Kurdi said.

"She said to me, 'I really don't want to go, I don't know how to swim,'" Kurdi said. "I said, 'Just put your life jacket on, you'll be fine.'"

Kurdi said she did all she could to help her brothers and their families, including wiring them

I wasn't asking the Canadian government to drain the system. I can pay for everything.

Tima Kurdi, aunt of two drowned Syrian boys

\$5,000 to help pay the smuggler for their escape.

"I shouldn't have sent the money," she said.

Kurdi said she moved to Canada in 1992 after marrying a Canadian and worked to bring family members to Canada and safety. Asked what should be done

to prevent future tragedies, she said: "Stop the war."

She said Abdullah now wants to travel to their hometown of Kobani in Syria near the Turkish border to bury his boys.

"He has to bury them in their own country," she said.

He also wants to put bananas

on their graves, as it was their favourite treat, she said.

Kurdi praised NDP MP Fin Donnelly for trying to help and delivering a plea for assistance to Conservative Immigration Minister Chris Alexander.

"And no response," she said.

Abdullah told reporters after identifying his sons' bodies that Canadian officials had offered him citizenship after seeing what had happened but that he declined. The Canadian government denies offering him citizenship.

+ TURKEY

Turkey has won international praise for taking in two million refugees since the Syrian civil war began in March 2011, spending \$6 billion caring for them and receiving just \$400 million in outside aid. But it has warned it is reaching capacity, and thousands are now making the perilous journey by boat from Turkey to Greece in a bid to enter Europe.

Kurdi said she has not heard of anyone being offered citizenship, but wishes her family could be reunited in Canada.

"But this is the law and you have to follow it," she said.

The Kurdi family had made a privately sponsored refugee application to the Canadian authorities that was rejected in June due to complications with applications from Turkey.

Kurdi said the family had money and plenty of room to house little Alan Kurdi, his brother and parents.

Security officials in Mugla said the bodies of Abdullah's two sons and wife would be flown via Istanbul to the southeastern city of Sanliurfa, from where they would be taken by road to the Syrian border town of Kobani.

Kobani, the family's hometown, has been the scene of intense fighting over the last year. In recent months Kurdish regional forces have been trying to repel attempts by Islamic State to recapture the town.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

2:30 pm - Cole Harbour Place

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

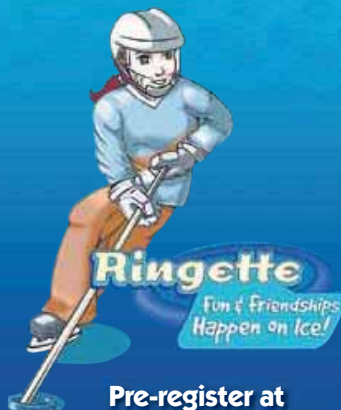
3:00 pm - BMO

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Religious strife at heart of conflict

metr The Syrian Crisis The Tragedy

Hundreds of thousands are dead, millions are displaced



Luke Simcoe
Metro|Toronto

Fighting in Syria has claimed the lives of 240,000 people, many of them civilians, and nearly half of the country's 23 million residents have been displaced.

This is how the crisis began, and what Canada is doing to help.

- **1963:** The Ba'athist regime, led by General Hafez al-Assad, seizes power in Syria in a coup d'état. The Assad family is seen to represent Syria's Shi'ite Muslims, leading to tensions with the country's majority Sunni population, as well as a minority of ethnic Kurds.
- **2000:** Hafez al-Assad dies, passing control of the country to his

son, Bashar al-Assad.

- **January 2011:** What's now known as the Syrian Civil War begins with the Arab Spring of 2011. Protests are staged across the country calling for Assad's resignation and the end of Ba'athist rule. Assad responds to the protests with military force, leading to the death of hundreds of protestors.

- **July 2011:** By the latter half of 2011, a coalition of armed forces known as the Free Syrian Army has formed to oppose Assad's military. Fighting erupts in several Syrian towns and the tide of displaced refugees begins.

- **April 2012:** Kofi Annan, acting as the United Nations representative for Syria, tries unsuccessfully to broker a ceasefire between the Assad regime and the FSA.

- **June 2012:** The UN officially declares Syria to be in a state of civil war.

- **2013:** Throughout 2013, the conflict in Syria attracts Islamic extremists and other militants from the surrounding region, including the newly formed Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, or ISIS).

- **July 2013:** Canadian Immigration Minister Jason Kenney pledges



Refugees from Syria walk along the roads of the border town of Idomeni in northern Greece, hoping to cross into Macedonia on Tuesday. SANTI PALACIOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

to bring 1,300 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of 2014. The Conservatives claim this target was met by March 2015, although organizations working with the refugees have disputed the government's numbers.

- **October 2014:** The Canadian Parliament approves air strikes against ISIL targets in Syria. Throughout the conflict, the Conservative government has focused its messaging on

combating extremists in the region rather than the humanitarian crisis. For example, in the government's official timeline of the crisis — available online — the phrase ISIS is used 55 times, while "refugee" appears only twice.

- **January 2015:** The federal government announces plans to take in 10,000 Syrian refugees over the next three years. At this point in the conflict, Germany

has already accepted at least 70,000 refugees from Syria.

- **August 2015:** The Conservatives reiterate their plan to resettle 10,000 refugees from war-torn Syria, saying they will open additional spots for persecuted religious minorities. To date, however, the country has only accepted about 2,500 refugees.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS AND TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

4,088,078

The number of Syrian refugees around the world registered with the United Nations as of Aug. 29, 2015.

7.6M

The estimated number of Syrians who have been displaced within the country.

\$700M

Canada's contribution to aid efforts in Syria.

2,302

The number of Syrian refugees resettled in Canada, as of July 27, 2015.

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Lindsay Children's Room
Spring Garden Road
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SEPTEMBER 16

Cole Harbour Place
Forest/Harbour Room
Forest Hills Parkway
7-9 pm

SEPTEMBER 17

Bedford-Hammonds Plains
Community Centre
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Policy won't stop tragic refugee deaths: Harper

metr The Syrian Crisis The Political Fallout

Immigration minister halts campaign in wake of tragedy

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canada's refugee policy isn't enough to stop the tragic deaths of refugees in Europe.

"We could drive ourselves crazy with grief, obviously we try to do what we can do to help," Harper said, but he said adding more resources to speed up the flow of refugees is not "of itself a reasonable moral reaction or solution to this problem."

Speaking at a Conservative rally in Surrey, B.C., Harper addressed the refugee crises in Europe that hit home yesterday when photographs of a drowned Syrian 3-year-old boy made headlines. He said he and his wife found it "heart-wrenching."

"I think our reaction to that, the first thing that crossed our mind was remembering our son Ben at that age," Harper said. "It brings tears to our eyes," he said. "It truly is a heartbreaking situation and a terrible tragedy."

But Harper said the report that the child pictured in the image and his family was denied refugee asylum is "not correct."

"There was no record of an application received for Mr. Abdullah Kurdi and his family," Citizenship and Immigration Canada spokesman Jean-Bruno Villeneuve said in a statement.

"Refugee policy alone is not a solution to this process," Harper said.

News of the tragedy derailed Conservative election campaign events Thursday.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney cancelled a security-related immigration announcement; Harper delayed an infrastructure announcement.

Immigration Minister Chris Alexander dropped campaign plans to rush to Ottawa and "ascertain both the facts of the case of the Kurdi family and to receive an update on the migrant crisis," he said in an emailed statement.

"The tragic photo of young Alan Kurdi and the news of the death of his brother and mother broke hearts around the world," Alexander said.

The boys' father, Abdullah Kurdi, told reporters after identifying his sons' bodies Thursday that Canadian officials had offered him citizenship after seeing what had happened but that he declined.

"Canada did not offer citizenship to Mr. Abdullah Kurdi," immigration spokesman Villeneuve said.

Kurdi's sister Fatima said all her brother wants now is take the bodies of his boys and wife back to their Syrian hometown of Kobane.

Sobbing at a news conference outside her Coquitlam, B.C. home, the woman who came to Canada in 1992 said Abdullah needed to get about \$14,000 in denture work.

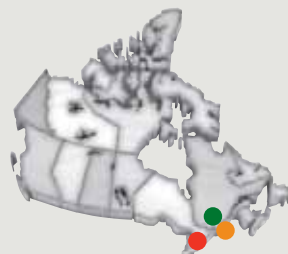
The boys' uncle, Rocco Logozzo, told The Canadian Press that the system is designed to fail. He adds his family had



Stephen Harper speaks about the Syrian refugee crisis during a campaign event in B.C. on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS



WHERE THE LEADERS ARE FRIDAY



• **Justin Trudeau** will be in Toronto and Richmond Hill, Ont.

• **Tom Mulcair** will be in Brossard, Que.

• **Elizabeth May** will be in Montreal.

Stephen Harper's itinerary was unavailable.

money and plenty of room to house Alan and his brother and parents at his home in Coquitlam. Logozzo said his relatives were desperate.

"When they heard (the refugee application) failed, they lost all hope, and in a desperate situ-

ation, you make all these wrong decisions," Logozzo said.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair became particularly emotional at news conference Thursday. "The international community has failed," he said. "Canada has failed." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Minister at heart of controversy is a rising star in Harper's cabinet

The Conservative candidate who finds himself at the centre of controversy over Canada's response to the European refugee crisis is a respected former diplomat who is considered a rising star in Stephen Harper's government.

Chris Alexander, the candidate for Ajax-Pickering and Harper's minister of citizenship and immigration, dropped his re-election campaign on Thursday after poignant photos of a Syrian boy who drowned off the coast of Turkey were seen around the world.

In an email to Torstar News Service, Alexander said he was returning to Ottawa to be briefed on the migrant crisis.

NDP candidate Fin Donnelly told The Canadian Press that the boy's family had been trying to come to Canada, and Donnelly had personally asked Alexander to look into the case.

One brother had been turned down earlier this year and another still hoped to join his sister in B.C. before his family perished at sea.

Before entering politics, Alexander, 46, made a name for himself in the world of international diplomacy.

He worked in the foreign service for 18 years, posted first to Moscow and later Afghanistan, where he became Canada's first resident ambassador.

After meeting his wife and starting a family in Kabul, in 2009 he quit diplomacy to return to Canada, where he decided to run for office.

In 2011, he beat Liberal incumbent Mark Holland to become MP for the riding of Ajax-Pickering, and despite his age and inexperience as an MP, was appointed to cabinet two years later.

As minister of citizenship and immigration he presided over sweeping reforms to Canada's immigration system that he said were necessary to eliminate fraud and wasteful spending, but were heavily criticized by refugee ad-



Immigration minister Chris Alexander THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ REFORMS

The reforms to Canada's immigration system included reducing social assistance to refugees, and imposing stricter conditions on obtaining Canadian citizenship.

One reform, which limited refugee claimants' access to public health care, was struck down last year by the Federal Court, which deemed it "cruel and unusual."

vocates and opposition parties.

Alexander stood by the changes to Canada's immigration regime, however, telling Torstar last year: "Canadians are proud of the reforms we've brought to the immigration system. It's far better now than it was in 2006."

On Wednesday night, as photos of three-year-old Alan Kurdi's lifeless body were already being seen around the world, Alexander defended Canada's response to the refugee crisis on the CBC, saying the country is "a model of humanitarian action" and was "dramatically" increasing the number of refugees from Iraq and Syria that it would take in.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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- 5 Demi Lovato Cool For Summer
- 4 Halsey Stenfold Love Myself
- 3 Selena Gomez ft ASAP Rocky Good For You
- 2 R.C. City ft Adam Levine Locked Away
- 1 The Weeknd Can't Feel My Face



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Ottawa set to open its doors: Mayor



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson sent a formal letter to Canada's immigration minister Thursday, saying the city wants to open its doors to more refugees fleeing war-torn Syria.

The mayor's urgent outreach to Chris Alexander comes after a photo emerged of a lifeless three-year-old Syrian boy, Alan Kurdi, washed up on a beach on the shores of Turkey, which has sparked worldwide outrage.

The dramatic photo, splashed across newspapers around the world, has put a human face on the refugee crisis in Europe that has worsened in recent months.

The letter said Watson is watching "with great concern"

the events surrounding the crisis and affirmed he is committed to assisting with the settlement in Canada's capital of those affected.

"I would like to ask for the support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and other relevant federal partners to identify what role the municipal sector could play," wrote Watson.

"It would be helpful if you could assign a senior official to liaise with City of Ottawa staff to ensure a strong co-ordination of federal plans on the local level."

The letter also mentioned Ottawa's history of aiding people in need, an apparent nod to former mayor Marion Dewar, who, in 1979, welcomed thousands of Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian refugees to the city. Her Project 4000 led to residents sponsoring refugees who made Ottawa their home.



A refugee looks at the barbed wire fence from the Serbian side of the border to the Hungarian town of Roszke on Thursday.
SANTI PALACIOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slow process spawns 'desperate measures'

metr The Syrian Crisis
Canadians Rally

Applicants face long wait to settle in Canada legally

Neal Hall
For Metro

Syrian refugees are taking desperate measures to come to Canada because of the complex and lengthy process, says a Vancouver immigration lawyer.

"Current processing times are four to five years," Laura Best said regarding the legal process

for Syrian refugees to come to Canada, many of whom have friends and relatives here who sponsor them.

She said some try to enter Canada on visitor visas and then seek refugee status, but since the start of the war in Syria, the federal government often refuses visitor visas on the belief that they will not return to their home country.

"What we're seeing is that when legal avenues are closed, desperate measures are taken," Best said, referring to media stories of a man trying to flee Turkey for Greece by boat with his family, reportedly with the goal of living with his brother in Coquitlam.

The boat capsized and the man's wife and two young children drowned. Photos of the



The numbers that Canada is talking about resettling is so low.... 3,000 a year (from Syria) is a drop in the bucket.

Immigration lawyer
Laura Best

tragedy are horrifying evidence of the Syrian crisis.

Best said those seeking to legally enter Canada can either seek refugee sponsorship by the Canadian government or private sponsorship through church groups and non-government or-

ganizations. Another option is the G5 program: having a group of five Canadian adults sponsor a refugee and having representatives in the area where the refugee plans to live.

Prior to 2012, those coming through the G5 program did not need to be recognized as refugees by either the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or a foreign state — the Canadian government would do the assessment of whether they met the definition of a refugee, Best said.

But since 2012, after amendments to Immigration and Refugee Protection regulations, Canada now requires G5 refugees to acquire a determination from the UNHCR or a third state to come through the program, Best said.



Tarek Habash, of the Syrian Assembly of Manitoba, says the Canadian government has to do more to help Middle Eastern refugees. DAVE BAXTER/METRO IN WINNIPEG

Federal government urged to step up



Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

A member of the Syrian community in Winnipeg says the disturbing image of a dead boy who drowned while his family was fleeing Syria is a reminder of how much more the Canadian government should be doing to help Middle Eastern refugees.

The widely shared picture released Wednesday shows three-year-old Alan Kurdi drowned and face down on the shores of a Turkish resort town.

His family was trying to reach the Greek island of Kos when their boat capsized.

His brother and mother also died.

It had been reported the boy's family had tried to get into Canada but their refugee application had been denied in June. However, Prime Minister Stephen Harper denies the families had applied to get into the country.

"It is sad the world has to see horrible images like this in order to act," said Tarek Habash, of the

Syrian Assembly of Manitoba.

Canada must start allowing more refugees into the country and speed up the process for them to get in, said Habash.

"Other countries with far less resources have taken in far more refugees," said Habash.

Habash knows Syrian families in Winnipeg who are working to privately sponsor loved ones to come to Canada, but he said the Canadian government is making that process far too difficult.

"It can take one to two years after applying, but there isn't time to wait. These people are often fleeing their homes with nothing more than the clothes on their back."

Habash is also concerned the Harper government will try to fix the problem by stepping up the military fight against ISIS.

"That will not be the solution. This crisis started before the rise of ISIS, and there are refugees fleeing parts of the country not ruled by ISIS."

Habash is calling on Canadian citizens to pressure their local MPs for changes that will allow more refugees to enter Canada.

Call them refugees, not migrants: Experts



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

It's a world of difference what you call Syrian people trying to cross over into other European countries.

Some may still be calling them migrants, but two local experts insist they fit every definition of refugees.

"It's a forced migration and at some point, I think, the category of refugee needs to be applied," said Jens Hanssen, a Middle East

expert who's been studying the Arab awakening in historical perspective.

A German-Canadian who's lived and learned Arabic in Damascus, Hanssen has been watching as his native country made a distinction between the two terms and accepted Syrians as refugees. He couldn't agree with the policy more, comparing the Syrians to Jews in 1900s. Those Jews who didn't flee Germany ended up in concentration camps, he said.

"We have ISIS taking them into slavery, we have the Assad

regime bombing them from the air," he said. "They are as refugees as anybody in history where that term has applied."

Migrant generally refers to people who cross borders into countries where they aren't citizens, said Audrey Macklin, chairwoman of human rights law at the University of Toronto. Refugees are just a subset of migrants, but the term only applies to people escaping war, catastrophe or for any other security concern, she said.

The difference is in responsibilities each category brings.

States don't have any obligations to migrants and can even refuse to receive them, but they can't refuse refugees, she said.

"When you call somebody a refugee, you acknowledge that you have obligations toward them," she said.

Politicians who are referring to Syrians as migrants or other terms are simply deflecting the responsibility to protect them, as signatories of the refugee convention, Macklin said.

"I think that those who are fleeing the war right now from Syria are refugees."

Media note Canadian connection to tragedy

metr The Syrian Crisis The world reacts

As the world's media relayed images of a lifeless Syrian boy on a beach, many outlets on different continents noted the Canadian connection to the tragic story.

A headline across Italy's La Repubblica website quoted Alan Kurdi's father: "I don't want asylum in Canada anymore — I'll take my son back to Kobane."

And a Canadian election campaign that days earlier seemed immersed in the far-less-inter-

nationally-compelling debate over Mike Duffy's expenses was suddenly tied to the most important story in the world.

U.K.'s Independent newspaper ran a headline on a breaking development from the federal election trail: "Canadian immigration minister suspends election campaign to investigate why Syrian family's refugee application was refused."

It was a similar headline in Algeria's El Watan newspaper: "Canada refused asylum to the family of little Alan Kurdi."

Most of these stories were sidebars to the bigger-picture challenge of the world's worst refugee crisis since the Second World War, as illustrated by French news sites which mainly focused on President Francois Hollande and German chancellor Angela Merkel demanding that other European countries do more.

Even on the Independent website, above the headline about Chris Alexander leaving the campaign trail, the main story Thursday evening was illustrated by pictures of people holding up

signs demanding that Prime Minister David Cameron welcome more refugees.

It was also the main story in most U.S. media. The top item on the New York Times website was the intra-European spat over how to handle the crisis, with Hungary's prime minister describing it as a German problem and urging other EU countries to tell migrants they're not welcome.

The No. 2 story in the Times: "Family of Drowned Syrian Boys Sought to Reach Canada."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Over 150,000 people have reached Hungary this year, most coming through the southern border with Serbia. Many apply for asylum but quickly try to leave for richer EU countries, like Germany. ZOLTAN BALOGH/MTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Train takes migrants to asylum camp

metr The Syrian Crisis The Political Fallout

New standoff after station stops service to Western Europe

Thousands of people desperate to reach Western Europe rushed into a Budapest train station Thursday after police ended a two-day blockade, setting off a wave of anger and confusion as hundreds shoved their way onto a waiting train. But when it tried to drop them off at a Hungarian camp for asylum seekers, a bitter showdown began.

One man threw his wife and infant son onto the tracks, screaming in Arabic, "We won't move from here!" Police surrounded the prone family, pulled the husband away and handcuffed him as he wailed. His wife and diaper-clad boy — apparently uninjured — were freed and allowed to rejoin other migrants.

The scene was just one of many that unfolded Thursday as tempers flared in Hungary's war of wills with migrants trying to evade asylum checks and reach Western Europe.

As Hungary's anti-immigrant prime minister warned European partners that he intends to make his country's borders an impassible fortress for new arrivals, his government struggled to coax thousands of unwanted visitors away from the Budapest transportation hub that has been turned into a squalid refugee camp.

People fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Asia and Africa rushed into the Keleti train terminal when police unexpectedly withdrew Thursday morning, ending a blockade designed to stop migrants from boarding trains to their desired destinations in Germany and Austria.

In desperate scenes, people pushed each other to reach the train's six carriages, thinking that getting on board meant they would be first to escape Hungary. But instead of heading to the Austrian border, the overloaded train stopped at Bicske, a town northwest of Budapest that holds one of the country's five camps for asylum seekers — facilities the migrants want to avoid because they don't want to pursue asylum claims in economically depressed Hungary. As the train platform filled with police came into view, those inside chanted their disapproval.

The crowd, angrily waving train tickets to Vienna and Munich, refused police orders to board buses to the asylum centre, pushing their way past police and back onto the train. A day-long standoff ensued in which police and charity workers took turns handing food and water to the passengers, only to have them tossed out train windows in protest.

Back at the Budapest train station, announcements in Hungarian and English — but not Arabic, the language of most of those gathered inside — declared that all services from the station to Western Europe had been cancelled.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pope to give special blessing

metr The Syrian Crisis
The world reacts

Refugees and immigrants in N.Y.C. will meet Catholic leader

Pope Francis will offer a special blessing to a group of immigrants and refugees in New York, including those who are undocumented, highlighting two contentious issues in American politics.

The Sept. 25 encounter with about 150 mostly Spanish-speaking New Yorkers "is about the values and the message that he has articulated as Pope," the head of New York's Catholic Charities, Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, told a news conference Thursday at a church in Harlem.

Francis has made helping immigrants a top priority of his pontificate, decrying what he called the "globalization of indifference" toward migrants and refugees. The Pope will address a joint meeting of Congress on Sept. 24, where he is expected to press lawmakers for generous and welcoming policies toward

immigrants. His efforts come as questions intensify about inaction over Syria's civil war and Europe's migrant crisis.

Among those the Pope will bless at Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem are youngsters from violence-torn Central American countries who crossed the border alone, refugees who fled persecution and are seeking asylum, struggling American-born minorities and disabled immigrants. Francis will also meet a group of Catholic schoolchildren.

Manhattan resident Yvette Suazo, her 14-year-old daughter Chelsea and four-year-old son Kingdon hitchhiked from Honduras to the U.S. about two years ago. Life at home had become precarious, with her daughter in danger of being raped each time she left the house, the mother said after the news conference.

Asked whether she had documents allowing her to live in New York legally, Suazo said, in Spanish, "Nada" — nothing. As a result, she cannot look for a job and depends on her sister while her status is clarified.

"But I hope the opportunity to be here legally will open for us," she said in Spanish.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“

I'll ask him to pray for us and our countries.

Cristhian Contreras, who fled Honduras



MIGRANTS AT LEAST 14 KILLED OFF MALAYSIAN COAST A rescue team unloads the body of a victim retrieved from a search operation near the area where a boat carrying Indonesian migrants sank near Hutan Melintang, Perak, in Malaysia. The wooden boat crammed with migrant workers who were headed back to Indonesia capsized Thursday off Malaysia's western coast, killing at least 14 people, a maritime official said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIBYA

Envoys optimistic about unity talks

In signs of a possible breakthrough, newly appointed envoys from Libya's Islamist-backed government in Tripoli say they are optimistic about a possible deal toward creating a unity government — on condition that a draft accord is modified first.

The four-man delegation from the GNC party, which had shunned talks toward a deal for weeks, arrived in Geneva for UN-

brokered discussions attended by all major factions about the future of a country now run by rival governments and facing a growing Islamic State presence amid violence, chaos and instability.

The expression of optimism by a new team of envoys marked a rare positive note in a divisive process that has dragged on for more than seven months under the watchful eye of world powers.

The UN special representative for Libya, Bernardino Leon, was mediating the latest round of talks that opened Thursday. Parties are to present their candidates for the prime minister and two deputies to lead a national unity government and get the war-torn country out of its crisis.

GNC envoy Abdurrahman Al Sewehli told a few reporters that "we are optimistic, that is why

we are here," but said the delegation hasn't yet presented a list of proposed names for those posts.

He said the party's priority is to "work out the commitment to the draft agreement," and said he hoped for a deal "if we can resolve the issue of the amendments" — though he declined to identify the exact changes sought. GNC had previously rejected the draft accord. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

If this is generous, Syrians are screwed. Resign, Alexander.

This should be the end. Not only of the Conservative's heel-dragging to settle desperate Syrian refugees, but of the political career of Chris Alexander.

On CBC's Power and Politics Wednesday, after the world saw the image of a dead boy tossed limply onto sand, the minister of citizenship and immigration scoffed at criticism of his government's response to the global refugee crisis.

The man, who in 2014 grossly misrepresented how few Syrians his government had settled, turned his evasive tongue on the media.

"The biggest conflict and humanitarian crisis of our time has been there for two years, and you and others have not put it in the headlines where it deserves to be," he accused.

A blatant lie, but worse, a callous remark. He was picking fights while people are dying.

The government maintains its refugee policy isn't to blame for the young brothers' deaths. It's wrong.

We have an application bureaucracy that some of the boys' extended family had already found impossible to navigate, requiring documents that some refugees can't produce. So, instead, the boy's aunt paid for him, his brother and parents to flee on a boat. Only the father survived.

When the application process is deemed futile by those it could save, that's deadly.

Across the country,

Canadians have battled the government to sponsor more Syrian refugees. Nova Scotia lobbied for that right, and met silence. And, because privately-sponsored Syrian refugees must have support from friends or family, Mennonites in Alberta have partnered with Syrians already in Canada to get more refugees to safety.

Yesterday, Alexander touted Canada as home to "one of most generous per capita immigration and refugee resettlement programs in the world." That is technically true, but in no way laudable.

There are four million Syrian refugees. The government has taken 2,500 so far, and, amid mounting pressure and an election campaign, committed this year to take a mere 20,000. If we're the most generous, Syrians are screwed.

Margaret Wente described Alexander in 2011 as an "unabashed idealist" and humanitarian. But there's no idealism in the Conservatives' treatment of refugees. Only an un-Canadian stinginess, and a cold disregard for human life.

No one man or country can fix a global humanitarian crisis. But one man can be held responsible for Canada's lacklustre efforts.

The dead boy is "reminding Canadians of our duty," Alexander said last night, in a mea-culpa appearance on Power and Politics. But time is up: He's already failed in his.

WHEN THERE ARE NO WORDS: ARTISTS SKETCH THEIR GRIEF FOR ALAN KURDI



"How his story should have ended"

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"New world map"

RAFAT ALKHATEEB



"I hope humanity finds a cure for visas"

@KHALIDALBAIH



Untitled

YASER AHMAD



"La honte" ("The shame")

@YGREK



"... does not protect you" (This is a quotation from the poet Mahmoud Darwish) @NASERJAFARI

What you can do to help Syrian refugees in crisis



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Sadly, it took a heartbreaking picture of a three-year old lifeless body, face-down on the shore, for the world to pay closer attention to a crisis in Syria that has raged for more than four years.

At the office of Lifeline Syria, a Toronto-based initiative fighting to bring 1,000 Syrian refugees to Canada in the next two years, phones were ringing off the hook Thursday.

"I think the events of the last few days have really brought the situation to a peak in terms of public awareness and concern," Naomi Alboim, a member of the group's executive committee, told me.

That's a good thing. Don't get me wrong. What's not so good is that tragedy has to happen before the world reacted. Lifeline Syria has

been urging people to attend its recruitment and training sessions on sponsoring Syrian refugees for months. In the past three such meetings, only about 100 people attended. With the new developments and many more people coming forward, the Sept. 16 gathering could host well over 300 potential sponsors.

Alboim says individuals and groups who want to get involved should focus on raising funds — Citizenship and Immigration Canada requires that sponsors be able to provide \$26,000 for a family of four. More information on how to get involved can be found at www.lifelinesyria.ca.

If you can't sponsor, donate. There are many organizations working directly in and around Syrian borders to help care for people in need.

UNICEF Canada called Syria the most dangerous place to be a child, and launched an emergency appeal to save Syr-

ian children. You can donate through their website, www.unicef.ca.

Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières, or MSF) Canada is another organization that sends medical and humanitarian staff to provide emergency health care to Syrian refugees inside Syria, and in Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. You can donate through this page: www.msf.ca/en/donate-now.

More importantly, Canadians should pressure the government to simplify and speed up what has become a slow and complex sponsorship-application process. The Citizenship and Immigration website advises that applications typically take years to come to completion. And even the most urgent and luckiest applicants will wait more than six months.

Alboim, who once worked for the federal government, says she doesn't understand how the waiting times have

It's important, as policy-makers seek military and diplomatic solutions, that ordinary citizens continue to think about ordinary lives caught in the turmoil.

gotten so long. She remembers that it used to take just days to get an application through.

"Six days is too long for people in desperation," she says.

It's important, as policy-makers seek military and diplomatic solutions to geopolitical problems, that ordinary citizens continue to think about ordinary lives caught in the turmoil, and find ways to chip in.

Let's not wait for the next tragedy to stir us to action.

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SUMMER OF 2015

Reports of cinema's death are greatly exaggerated

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



The summer movie season began amid doom and gloom. I don't mean George Miller's filling screens with his dystopian vision of the future in *Mad Max: Fury Road* or the career ending fallout from the Sony hack. No, I mean the sky-is-falling predictions that circulated about the movie business.

Box office is down! No one goes to the movies anymore! And best of all: Movies are dead!

To paraphrase Mark Twain, I'm happy to say the reports of the death of cinema have been greatly exaggerated. The summer box office of 2015 will go down in the record books as the second-biggest in history with almost seven billion dollars generated by *Minions*, *Ant-Man*, *Mad Max*, dinosaurs and a sad little girl named Riley.

Superheroes helped put bums in seats, but 2015 won't be remembered as the Year of *Ultron*. Now that the summer silly season is over, a definite trend toward female-driven movies like *Trainwreck*, *Pitch Perfect 2* and *Spy* showed that, as Amy Schumer told me,



From *Mad Max* to *Trainwreck*, people flocked to the movies in huge numbers this summer, filling seats not simply to sit in air conditioning or dine on popcorn, but to participate in a time-honoured tradition, writes Richard Crouse. HANDOUT

Hollywood has finally realized "our money works, too. Our banks also accept the female dollar."

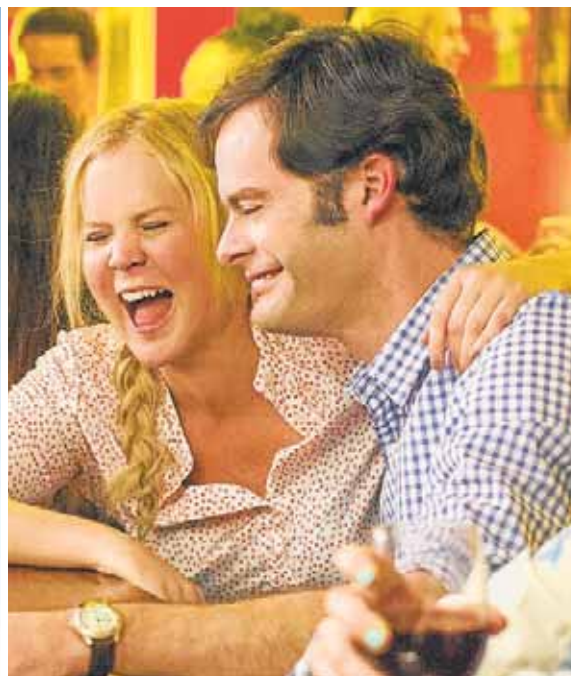
But it wasn't just women going to the movies. With *Jurassic World* pulling in 1.6 billion samolians worldwide, it seems everyone put down the remote and went to the cinema.

We didn't rush out to everything — cash grabs like *Ted 2* and *Terminator: Genisys* flopped — but the naysayers, the folks who, in January, were

declaring movies to be a thing of the past, an old outmoded form of entertainment in the digital age, missed the point.

People flocked to the movies in huge numbers this summer, filling seats and studio bank accounts, not simply to sit in air conditioning for a few hours as relief from the summer heat or to dine out on popcorn and Twizzlers, but to engage in an age-old ritual.

Of course, you can watch movies at home or on your



sharing entertainment with a large group of strangers. It's a primal thing, hard-wired into our DNA, that dates back to when tribes of cave dwellers would sit around fires and tell stories through to the Globe Theatre, vaudeville, the talkies and right up to today's IMAX and AUX screenings.

People have gathered to be entertained since there were tales to be told because there is no better way to enjoy the storytelling experience than surrounded by strangers who are laughing, crying, gasping—whatever — in response to a shared event.

No matter how large your TV or comfortable your sofa, home viewing misses the magical element of community. In the theatre you're getting the sound and the picture the director intended, but more than that the experience brings people together, inspires conversation, respect and triggers actual physical interaction with others. Try that as you stream a movie on your iPhone.

Of course, as in any other community there are a few troublemakers — texters, seat kickers — but I spend more time in theatres than most and find the pros far outweigh any negatives.

In the era of home entertainment the idea of going to the movies may sound old fashioned or quaint but I like the way English novelist Angela Carter described watching a film in a theatre. She called it "dreaming the same dream in unison" and that, for me will never go out of style.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

A Walk in the Woods ★★★
The Transporter Refueled ★
Dragon Blade ★★★
Mountain Men ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
 ★★★★★ SEE IT
 ★★★ WORTHWHILE
 ★★ UP TO YOU
 ★ SKIP IT

phone. New technology has made it easier than ever to enjoy a film from the comfort of your couch on a 60-inch screen with surround

sound and healthy, homemade snacks, but no matter what set-up you may have in your living room, the thing missing is the ancient practice of

2015
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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN



After Will schools a Harvard 'Michael Bolton clone' in the bar where he first meets Skylar, he tells the grad student, "I got her numba. How do you like dem apples?"

who'd just won Oscars for their story about an orphan-turned-janitor at MIT who could solve equations on napkins that only a handful of people in the world could also figure out.

Good Will Hunting stayed with me — maybe because it's the last film I remember seeing in a theatre with my mom and brother. I can recite nearly the entire thing, which makes me a very annoying viewing companion.

I could see regret in the eyes of my partner, Simon, when we watched it Saturday night. I announced at least five times that my favourite scene was coming up; I recited the jokes (in a Boston accent) before the characters did; and, like clockwork, I cried at the end when Will's therapist Sean, a role which earned Robin Williams an

THE MOVIE:
Good Will Hunting



Academy Award, confronts him. "It's not your fault."

Every year around Labour Day, I watch it. Maybe that's on account of the campus scenes — the hustle and bustle of students toting backpacks in lecture halls.

Or maybe it's the apples.

THE MEAL:
Hand-picked apples



You know the scene: After Will schools a Harvard "Michael Bolton clone" in the bar where he first meets Skylar, he tells the grad student, "I got her numba. How do you like dem apples?"

Coincidentally, my neighbour messaged me on Sun-

day to say that her apple tree was bearing more fruit than she knew what to do with and gave me enough for at least a couple of pies.

The only trouble was when I bit down into one, I knew I couldn't bear to bake them. They are small and tart, with a touch of sweet, and possess a crunch that caused me to have a Proustian moment: These are the apples of my childhood. The kind we'd pick every autumn and devour before my mom could use them up for something else. The kind that made me spit the mealy, imported sort.

I still occasionally day-dream about Damon and Affleck. Does Matt now lecture Ben on how to make a marriage last? Do they get together every now and then, and watch J Lo's Jenny From the Block video?

Does something as simple as a perfectly tart apple remind them of bygone days, when they brought their moms to the Academy Awards on the cusp of finding fame and fortune?

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

MOVIE BRIEFS

Blanchett to play iconic star of I Love Lucy fame

Actress Cate Blanchett will take on the role of Lucille Ball in an upcoming biopic, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Aaron Sorkin will write the script for the film, which will focus on the iconic actress's life and long-spanning career. Ball won four Emmys during her career and was nominated 13 times.

She held the starring role in TV sitcoms I Love Lucy, The Lucy Show, Life with Lucy, The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour and Here's Lucy.

Lucie Arnaz and Desi Arnaz Jr., Ball's children with husband Desi Arnaz, will produce the film alongside Escape Artists.

Australian actress Blanchett has most recently been seen in films Cinderella and Carol. AFP



Cate Blanchett.
GETTY IMAGES



HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

DreamWorks looking for new park to play in, sources say

Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks film studio plans to part ways with Disney when their distribution tie-up ends in a year's time, an industry source told AFP on Wednesday.

Trade reports suggest Spielberg is looking to negotiate a new partnership with more favourable terms, boosted by the runaway success of Jurassic World, on which he was executive producer.

Universal — the Hollywood studio behind the blockbuster dinosaur series — is being tipped as Spielberg's likely new home by both the Hollywood Reporter and Variety.

According to an industry in-

sider who did not wish to be named, it is too soon to say who will be distributing DreamWorks' production after the Disney deal ends on Aug. 16, 2016.

But the source told AFP that DreamWorks, which Spielberg helped found in 1994, feels out of step with the Disney model and its focus on big, tentpole films such as new Star Wars instalments or Pixar's animated mega-hit Inside Out.

Disney's focus — exemplified by the acquisition in recent years of Marvel, Lucasfilm and Pixar — is firmly on movies that can be spun off into lucrative video games, amusement parks, branded toys and

knick-knacks.

DreamWorks meanwhile has been focusing on smaller, adult-oriented movies such as The Help or, more recently, The Hundred-Foot Journey with Helen Mirren.

DreamWorks signed a multiple-year distribution contract with Disney in 2009, after splitting from Paramount.

Spielberg's hand was strengthened in Hollywood by this year's Jurassic World \$1.6 billion box office takings. A sequel is already slated for release in 2018, also starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, and with Spielberg as executive producer. AFP



Spielberg executive-produced Jurassic World, third-highest grossing film in history. CONTRIBUTED

Jackie Chan still kicking it on screen

INTERVIEW

At 61, the action star shows no signs of slowing down

Steve Gow
Metro Life

He may have karate-chopped his way to become one of the world's biggest actors, but even 40 years of action haven't slowed down Jackie Chan. *Dragon Blade* — the Hong Kong star's latest thriller — sees the much-loved martial artist leading a theorized war epic about lost Romans duelling Chinese guards along the Silk Road trade route. Metro caught up with Chan to find out why, at 61, he's happy to keep filming.

Dragon Blade was the most expensive Chinese film ever made. Why was it so important to you?

The heart of this story is completely captivating. The idea that the world's two greatest

civilizations had an encounter that was never recorded in history! How could I not want to make this film? It also allows me to touch on philosophical issues that are important to me and to director Daniel Lee — like peace.

Even though *Dragon Blade* is an action film, there are bits of comedy. Is comedy just natural for you as an actor?

It's not necessarily deliberate but it just comes out. My next film is also an action-comedy so I guess I can never fully escape the genre. But I'm trying to vary my range and be seen as an actor who does comedy and action. I hope you'll recognize that in *Dragon Blade*.

You've said that when you were young, box-office success was important. How has that changed?

The box office result was very important when I was young. If my films had no box office, people wouldn't invite me to make another film. I had to feed my family, so making money came first...now I feel a responsibility towards society and the world. So my

+ SEQUELS

More Rush Hour?

The buddy-cop franchise that paired Chan with funnyman Chris Tucker has spawned two sequels with another possibly on the way. "Chris and I both agreed that we need a really good story to move forward," said Chan. "People keep asking me about *Rush Hour*, so I guess we better work harder."

mind has changed and I don't care so much about the box office. I want to make the movies I want to make and spread my message.

You have lots of upcoming projects — what can you tell me about *Karate Kid 2*?

The next *Karate Kid* script is still being written. On the one hand we want a script that everybody is proud of so we've been really demanding. On the other hand, Jaden is getting older. Soon, he'll be taller than me and his dad! But I can see it happening soon.



Jackie Chan stars in *Dragon Blade*, the most expensive Chinese film ever made. It opens this Friday. HANDOUT

FILM

Sisto holds court in tennis flick

Jeremy Sisto spent years working with screenwriter pal Gene Hong to bring *Break Point*, his new tennis comedy, to life. The film follows a washed-up tennis pro roping his estranged brother (David Walton) into making another bid for on-court glory. He just maybe didn't consider how much actual tennis he'd have to play while filming it.

You've been very involved with this for project for a long time.

Yeah, me and Gene, the writer, used to play tennis and talk about movies, and we thought there was a space for a good tennis comedy that hadn't been made yet. And then he wrote a screenplay and we went out and tried to get it set up and all that rigmarole. It's just exhausting, I mean, the whole thing is exhausting. I wasn't sure it was worth all the effort, and I know when we finished the film I was definitely like, "I don't know, if A, it was worth it or B, I want to do that again." But now talking about it, I feel some pride and I feel proud of the people involved and proud to be involved with them

Just the challenge of filming an actual athletic effort sounds exhausting.

I'm kind of like a kid, if there's



Jeremy Sisto
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

a ball and a hoop and a goal. I'm over there getting sweaty and pissing off makeup, so to be able to do it and not piss off makeup was pretty much a dream. But yeah, the first couple of days out there, me and David, we would continue playing when the cameras weren't rolling, so by the end of the day we were spent. So we decided that probably wasn't a good idea for the rest of the shoot.

Not a lot of longevity in that.

No, but playing in front of people is not something I was used to at all, so that defin-

itely took some getting used to. I didn't play a lot of sports as a kid, so I didn't have that comfort level, but I think that added a lot of grit to the feeling of us out there. There was a tension every shot, and that's how it feels to be a professional tennis player. It's a super difficult sport, where if every part of your body isn't working just right with the right syncopation, then boom, ball's going out and you're losing points, and so there is a real intense mental component to the game.

When you play a tennis player with a temper, is there this spectre of John McEnroe there the whole time? He's kind of cornered the market on that.

Yeah, totally. The difference is, there's a lot of etiquette rules in tennis and the idea is this guy, Jimmy, he really enjoys crossing those. He enjoys making people uncomfortable. John McEnroe was so angry and so emotionally unhinged at those moments that he couldn't not go after someone. Whereas with Jimmy, he's almost doing it to amuse himself to some degree, it's almost that he's not taking the game as seriously as everyone else is.

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Cape Breton's new headliner



Cabot Cliffs sweeps along oceanside bluffs just to the north of Inverness. PHOTOS COURTESY CABOT LINKS

NOVA SCOTIA

Cabot Cliffs adds to island's world-famous golf reputation

Brian Kendall
canadiangolftraveller.com



Cape Breton has always punched above its weight among Canadian golf destinations. But the early rave reviews for Cabot Cliffs, the island's wildly anticipated new course, seems almost an excess of good fortune.

Set on soaring oceanside bluffs just outside the town of Inverness, Cabot Cliffs is the

sister course of Cabot Links, a world-renowned seaside links that instantly became a flagship for the Canadian golf industry when it launched in 2011.

But Cabot Cliffs might be even more spectacular. No fewer than eight holes offer endless views of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Especially unforgettable is the 16th, a par three chiselled into a jagged cliff. The inland holes sweep through sculpted dunes and woodlands before returning to the sea.

Designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, golf's hottest design team, Cabot Cliffs is already being compared to Pebble Beach, Cypress Point and several more of the world's most dramatically beautiful courses.

Cape Breton, a Nova Sco-



Golf has become as essential to the fabric of life in Inverness as it is in Scotland's St. Andrews.

tia island of charming villages and panoramic vistas along the Cabot Trail, has long ranked among Canada's top golf destinations. Located in the quiet north shore community of Ingonish is Highlands Links, a Stanley Thompson-designed masterpiece that has anchored Maritimes golf since 1941. Rounding out a strong roster are Bell Bay Golf Club, The Lakes Golf Club and



Cliff-top drama: the signature par-three 16th at Cabot Cliffs.

Le Portage Golf Club.

Golf has become the lifeblood of local tourism. Before the opening of Cabot Links and the quietly elegant Cabot Links Lodge, Inverness was a hardscrabble former coal mining town where the big attractions were salmon fish-

ing on the Margaree River and the twice-weekly harness races at Inverness Raceway. Townspeople also boast that their beach offers the warmest ocean waters north of the Carolinas.

Today, stylish new houses are under construction, real-

estate prices are climbing, and the tired-looking main street is being given a facelift.

With tourists arriving from around the world, golf has become as essential to the fabric of life in Inverness as it is in Scotland's St. Andrews.

The original course, Cabot Links, is set just beyond the beach in the heart of town. Glimpses of the green and rumpled links are visible from almost everywhere in Inverness. A long public boardwalk extends between the beach and the fairways closest to the sea, enabling strollers to feel a part of the action.

And now, just to the north of town, Cabot Cliffs is welcoming golfers for preview rounds before its official launch next spring.

How lucky can Cape Breton get?

TRAVEL NOTES NEW GATES, BAD BUSINESS AND RUNNING NORTH KOREA

Sunspot expansion

Antigua and Barbuda recently doubled the capacity of its V.C. Bird International Airport with a new terminal, one of the most modern in the Caribbean. The \$130-million-plus green-energy building will offer more of everything, including expedited access to the twin-island nation's 365 beaches, three VIP lounges and a pet restroom. Go to VisitAntiguaBarbuda.com.



Jabberwock Beach, Antigua and Barbuda. CONTRIBUTED

Travel trend

Frequent flyers beware: A recent study says business travel may be harder on you than you think. Your glam job jetting around is costing you physically (jet lag and fatigue, airplane food, radiation), emotionally (missing your family/spouse), psychologically (you may be addicted to "hyper-mobility") and socially (friends never know when you're around, so they don't call).



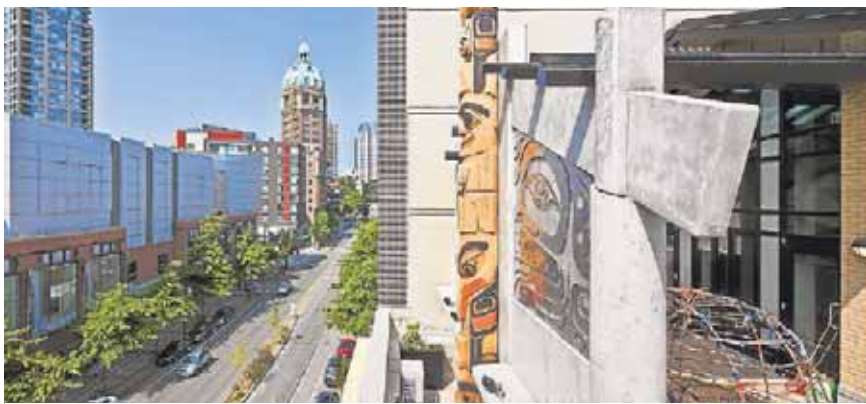
Is your jet-setting job making you miserable? PEXELS.COM

North Korea marathon

Intrepid Travel added North Korea to its roster last week, launching a Pyongyang Marathon Expedition set for next April. Travellers participate in the city's full- or half-marathon, or 10-km run, followed by a week of guided tours of landmarks such as the demilitarized zone, Mount Myohyang and the city of Pyongyang. From \$3,130. Visit IntrepidTravel.com. DOUG WALLACE



More than 650 internationals ran in the Pyongyang Marathon last year. CONTRIBUTED



The Skwachâys Lodge in Vancouver. COURTESY TOURISM VANCOUVER

Accommodations with a side of art

MORE THAN HOTELS

Where to find unique stays among murals, ice sculptures



ON THE MOVE

Loren Christie

If you are a culture vulture who prefers hotels that offer more than just bed and breakfast, consider staying at one of the following purveyors of the arts.

Cosy, with cocktails

With only 19 guest rooms, Toronto's Drake Hotel still manages to be the west end's epicentre of cool. From the hotel's inception, the promotion and sharing of art was always part of the guest experience.

There are site-specific installations throughout the hotel from conceptual installations to murals to kinetic sculptures. The collection is grounded in contemporary Canadian art with works by notable artists such as

Ken Lum, Isabelle Hayeur and Evan Penny. The cocktail list is pretty memorable, too!

Aboriginal art

Opened in the fall of 2014, the 18-room boutique Skwachâys Lodge in Vancouver is perfect for people interested in British Columbia's aboriginal art scene. Six of the city's top hotel designers worked with six First Nations artists to create 18 unique art installations, one for each guest room. The hotel also features an artists' workshop, traditional smudge room and sweat lodge and is crowned by a rooftop totem pole that reaches high above the city skyline.

Owned by the Vancouver Native Housing Society, 100 per cent of the hotel's profits go toward providing safe and affordable housing for Vancouver's urban aboriginal population.

Keeping cool

The Hôtel de Glace outside of Quebec City is the only ice hotel in North America and, despite lacking some creature comforts (only a pillow and medium-sized mattress in the rooms), is a breathtaking work of art. Built over a six-week period and

open only during the winter months, the hotel is redesigned every year by a combination of tradesmen and skilled artisans.

This past year's theme of space and time was represented in frozen sculptures of everything from a Japanese tea ceremony to the lunar landing, carved into the walls of the hotel. This year's theme will be announced in December.

Contemporary in N.Z.

If you are travelling internationally, a personal favourite of mine is the Museum Art Hotel in Wellington, New Zealand.

This 165-room European-inspired boutique hotel is perfectly situated in the city centre, opposite the city's stunning harbour and Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum.

Although one could endlessly people-watch the city's hipsters and trendsetters who frequent the hotel's Hippopotamus restaurant and bar, I could not take my eyes off the art.

Owner Chris Parkin showcases more than 100 ceramics, paintings and other contemporary pieces, like a limited-edition MV Agusta motorcycle, throughout the hotel.

NOT A TOURIST | A letter from Mark Stachiew in Germany

Hockey night in Frankfurt

Do you want to meet local people when you travel? Here's a tip: Attend a sporting event. You'll sit with thousands of them and the ones seated next to you are happy to talk, especially if you're rooting for the home team.

I've seen NHL games in several North American cities and met plenty of local fans, but few of them could top the enthusiasm I saw at a hockey game in Frankfurt. Yes, that Frankfurt, the one in Germany.

While soccer is king in Germany, the country has a professional hockey league known as the Deutsche Eishockey Liga. While the calibre of play in the DEL may not be up to NHL lev-

els, it is plenty competitive and highly entertaining.

In Frankfurt, the fans cheer for the Löwen, or Lions, a team that plays at the Eisssporthalle Frankfurt in the second tier of the DEL. There wasn't a moment during the game when fans weren't waving flags, clapping, banging drums and chanting songs. They only paused between periods in order to soothe their hoarse throats with generous portions of German beer while eating fistfuls of sausages and pretzels.

In many ways, it seemed that a horde of rabid soccer fans had been trans-

ported to a hockey rink, superimposing their rituals on a hockey game. Most wore the black, white and orange colours of the home team, but many sport-

ed NHL sweaters of various vintages or those of other European teams.

The opposition that night was the Dresdner Eislöwen. It was a back-and-forth affair that the visitors won 6-4, but even if the hometown fans didn't go home happy, I did because I knew that the sport Canadians love is in good hands in Germany.



Fans in Frankfurt wave flags, bang drums and hold sparklers aloft during a pre-game ceremony that is as epic as a Wagnerian opera. MARK STACHIEW/FOR METRO

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Sprinter Andre De Grasse is forgoing estimated six-figure endorsement deals to return to USC for his senior year

Basketball staying put

NBL CANADA

Halifax to keep team, although they'll no longer be 'Rainmen'



Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

Despite last year's National Basketball League of Canada championship turning into a fiasco on and off the court, there were at least some positive outcomes to the series, commissioner Dave Magley said Thursday.

The final tip-off that never happened between the Windsor Express and Halifax Rainmen, who forfeited Game 7 by not showing up to play April 30 citing safety concerns, has ultimately brought "eight individual owners together, that have never been on the same page."

"Our ownership group is a team for the first time ever," Magley said Thursday at the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame, where business leaders and league representatives announced Halifax will have a team this season — albeit under a different name.

"It's made us a stronger

league," he said.

Changes the league will make to avoid repeats include recruiting younger and better officials, enforcing rules for coaches that keep them in designated areas and adjusting rules "to make the game less physical," Magley said.

As for what's to become of the former Halifax Rainmen that were fined and suspended following Game 7, Magley said all players can be reinstated, but head coach Josep (Pep) Claros won't be allowed back in the league.

Players have to discuss how to deal with fines and must make a written request to rejoin the league. Former Rainmen owner Andre Levingston will head up operations, including Halifax recruitment.

Levingston said he's working on bringing back several Rainmen players.

"I've stayed in touch with every last one of those guys," he said of last season's players.

It's all about learning from last year, Levingston said.

"Some good came from it; we got the opportunity to put an unbelievable group together that's going to grow professional basketball in Halifax," he said.

"It's going to be something for the fans to cheer for."

It's made us a stronger league.

Dave Magley on the change that's come in the wake of last season's truncated NBL Canada final.



Mooseheads goalie Eric Brassard stops a shot from Cape Breton Screaming Eagles forward Pierre-Luc Dubois during Thursday night's pre-season game at the Halifax Forum. JEFF HARPER/METRO

QMJHL PRE-SEASON

Herd finish pre-season without a win

From the team itself to the city they now live in, Halifax Mooseheads rookies have a lot to soak up, so they were all smiles Thursday night at the Halifax Forum, despite falling 3-1 to the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles in exhibition action.

Forward Ilya Putintsev, 17, scored the lone goal for the Herd to tie it up midway through the opening frame.

"Tonight it was a tough game," the Moscow, Russia, native said outside the Moose dressing room. "Speed ... beat us."

But the Mooseheads have the ability to play just as fast, he said.

Clark Bishop scored in the first, Peyton Hoyt notched the game-winner in the second and Dillon Boucher sealed the deal in the third for Cape Breton.

It was a fifth straight pre-season loss for Halifax, fourth to Cape Breton, and the last chance for the Mooseheads to

HOME OPENER

The Halifax Mooseheads home-opener is at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18 against the Acadie-Bathurst Titan at the Scotiabank Centre.

snag a win before puck drops on the regular season.

Halifax kicks it off with a road game at 7 p.m. next Friday against the Charlottetown

Islanders.

Putintsev said players aren't worried about their pre-season record, explaining coaches have advised them to play their game while kinks are worked out and lines are juggled.

His new teammate Otto Somppi, a fellow 17-year-old from Helsinki, agreed Thursday's game was "tough" but players "look forward" to the regular season starting.

Somppi said he only saw pictures of Halifax "on Google" before moving here for training camp.

"It's great," he said of his first impressions.

Putintsev said he's "very proud to be here."

"I think I will be good here," he said. "It's my dream."

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

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Chants of 'M-V-P' grow louder

MLB

Donaldson leads AL in RBIs, runs, slugging pct.

When Josh Donaldson steps to the plate at Rogers Centre and the strains of Phil Collins' In the Air Tonight fade out, the crowd noise fills in with chants of "M-V-P! M-V-P!"

Sometimes it's just a few hundred fans, until the star Blue Jays slugger hits a home run and some 40,000 more join the call.

"I try not to listen to it too much, but it's nice," Donaldson said. "Obviously all year the fans have really supported me. So far this year it's kind of worked out, and we'll see how it goes."

To say it has "worked out" is the understatement of the year from the third baseman, a front-runner to be the American League's Most Valuable Player. Donaldson leads the league with a .589 slugging percentage, 111 runs batted in, 304 total bases and 104 runs scored.

He has passed and even

.385

In 149 plate appearances with runners in scoring position, Donaldson is hitting .385 to Trout's .347.

lapped defending champion Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels by being at the forefront of the Blue Jays' surge into first place.

"I don't think we're anywhere close to where we're at without him," starting pitcher Mark Buehrle said. "If he doesn't win, I'd be disappointed."

Donaldson would be the

Fans have firmly gotten behind the first-year Blue Jay.

TONY GUTIERREZ/
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



first player in 31 years to win AL MVP honours after being traded prior to Opening Day. Toronto general manager Alex Anthopoulos pulled off the steal of the off-season by acquiring Donaldson from the Oakland Athletics for off-injured third baseman Brett Lawrie.

The 29-year-old hit 29 home runs last season and 24 in 2013. Coming off an all-star appearance, expectations were that Donaldson would be an upgrade, but few could have predicted this.

"Two years in Oakland he had good years, but not this good," Buehrle said. "If somebody says they thought he was going to have this good of a year, I think they're crazy."

Donaldson, who hits second ahead of power righties Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion in baseball's most feared



Josh Donaldson is batting a career-best .304 with 36 home runs with 29 games left.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

and productive lineup, is batting a career-best .304 and already has 36 home runs with 29 games left.

Using the wins above replacement stat, which calculates value to a team if replaced by

a bench player or minor-leaguer, Donaldson's 7.64 trails only Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke and Washington Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper.

"He's having a career year," Toronto starter Marco Estrada

said. "What he brings on the field is everything. He's been our best hitter, his defence is incredible and he brings a lot of energy to the clubhouse. I'm glad he's on our side."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEFLATEGATE

Judge nixes Brady's four-game suspension

Tom Brady learned Thursday he will start the season on the field after a judge lifted the league's four-game suspension of the star quarterback for a scandal over deflated footballs, saying he was treated unfairly by NFL

commissioner Roger Goodell. The league quickly appealed.

U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman criticized Goodell for dispensing "his own brand of industrial justice" as he found multiple reasons to reject the suspension one week before New England's Sept. 10 opener against the

Pittsburgh Steelers.

The judge cited "several significant legal deficiencies" in the league's handling of the controversy, including the apparent first-ever discipline of a player based on a finding of "general awareness" of someone else's wrongdoing.

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Sam Stout, seen here at right fighting Caros Fodor in a February 2013 fight in Anaheim, is putting his health first and retiring from the UFC octagon. JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

Family man Stout says it's time to bow out

UFC

Lightweight slugger veteran admits his best days are gone

Fighting was very good to Sam (Hands of Stone) Stout.

The 31-year-old lightweight from London, Ont., recalls asking his bank for \$20,000 in cash when he wanted to buy a Dodge Avenger after one of his better UFC paydays. The bank demurred and Stout had to write a cheque.

For someone who used to drive a 1995 Chrysler Cirrus, a hand-me-down from his grandmother, it was a good day. As good as when he used another bonus cheque to pay for a new concrete driveway for his parents, among other home improvements.

But more recently, those paydays have come at a cost.

Once known for having an iron chin, Stout (20-12-1) was knocked out in his last three fights. While fine in the gym, Stout realized he was suddenly vulnerable in the cage.

"It's kind of a tough thing to wrap your brain around," Stout said Thursday, one day after announcing his retirement. "Physically you feel like you can still do it but that punch lands and it's night, night."

"I used to walk through those punches and not even flinch," he added. "All of a sudden I couldn't do that any more."

Stout's nine previous losses came via decision (six) or submission (three). He went almost 11 years as a pro before he was stopped by a punch. Then — bang, bang, bang — it happened at the hands of K.J. Noons (in 30 seconds), Ross (The Real Deal) Pearson (six minutes 33 seconds) and, most recently, Frankie Perez (54 seconds).

"I used to walk through those punches and not even flinch. All of a sudden I couldn't do that any more."

UFC fighter Sam Stout

Stout, who has not had any concussion issues, says he was healthy and motivated for those last three fights.

"All the training in the world's not going to make your chin better," he said. "Really what it comes down to is I just don't want to risk my health," he added. "I have a daughter (Logan) to think about now and I want to have a good quality of life in the future and I'm not going to risk my health for a paycheck."

Stout fought 20 times in the

UFC, second only to former welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre (21) among Canadians. Stout collected seven fight bonuses from the organization, six for fight of the night and one for knockout of the night.

He debuted in the UFC in March 2006 when he won a split decision over Spencer (The King) Fisher. The two went on to fight two more times, each garnering a win. Their trilogy helped Stout earn a reputation as a busy, hard-nosed fighter who usually put on a show. "We love fighters like Sam Stout," UFC president Dana White said in 2008. "Sam comes out and lets them go."

Stout, whose overall UFC record was 9-11, leaves ranked third in the modern UFC in significant strikes landed with 995, according to FightMetric, behind Frankie Edgar and Michael Bisping. He ranks 10th in total fight time with three hours 58 minutes 22 seconds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EURO 2016 QUALIFYING

Iceland upset Dutch again to stay top

Iceland beat the 10-man Netherlands 1-0 on Thursday to take a big step toward qualifying for next year's European Championship.

Arjen Robben's first match as Netherlands captain lasted less than a half hour before he left the pitch injured and was replaced by Luciano Narsingh.

And Danny Blind's debut as national coach went from bad to worse in the 33rd minute when referee Milorad Mazic showed defender Bruno Martins Indi a straight red card for making a striking movement with his arm as he tumbled to the ground in a tackle with Kolbeinn Sigthorsson.

Blind, a former fan favourite at Amsterdam Arena in his playing days with Ajax, was loudly booed when he pulled off striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and replaced him with Jeffrey Bruma in an attempt to shore up the Dutch defence.

"This is not the scenario you have in mind for your first match as Netherlands coach," Blind said. The Netherlands travels to Turkey for a must-win match for both teams on Sunday. Blind said Robben would not travel to Turkey, though he said he did not know the nature of the injury.

"If you get four points from these two games, you have your fate in your own hands," Blind said as he explained the Huntelaar substitution on national broadcaster NOS.

Gylfi Sigurdsson converted



Iceland players embrace after silencing Amsterdam's Arena Stadium. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

a 51st-minute penalty for Iceland after Gregory van der Wiel brought down Birkir Bjarnason.

In other Group A qualifiers, substitute Valerij Sabala scored an injury-time equalizer as Latvia drew 1-1 with Turkey, and Milan Skoda scored both of his team's goals as the Czech Republic came from behind to beat Kazakhstan 2-1.

The top two in each group qualify automatically for France. The best third-placed team also qualifies automatically, and the other eight teams can qualify through a playoff. The results left Iceland top of the group ahead of the Czechs, with the Netherlands third, a point ahead of Turkey. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. OPEN TENNIS

Hyeon tests Wawrinka despite straight sets win

Stan Wawrinka is a two-time major champion. Chung Hyeon is a 19-year-old playing in his second Grand Slam tournament.

That experience gap showed in what was a tightly contested match Thursday at the U.S. Open, which Wawrinka still pulled out in straight sets.

The fifth-seeded Wawrinka won 136 points to Chung's 125. The difference was the tiebreakers in a 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4), 7-6 (6) second-round victory. The three sets still took more than 3 hours.

Wawrinka had 26 aces and a total of 62 winners but a whopping 66 unforced errors against the 69th-ranked South Korean. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Mediterranean Burger with Tzatziki and Arugula



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- 1 oz crumbled feta
- Tomato slices
- Cucumber slices
- Arugula

Directions

1. In a bowl, combine burger ingredients, mix well. Form into four burgers.
2. Grill or bake burgers at 400 F for approximately 10 to 12 minutes, or until temperature reaches 160 F.
3. Garnish with tzatziki, feta, tomato, cucumber and arugula.

Nutrition per serving

- Calories 230
- Protein 26 g
- Carbohydrates 10 g
- Fibre 1 g
- Total fat 8 g
- Saturated fat 3 g
- Cholesterol 110 mg
- Sodium 380 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

Tzatziki is a Greek sauce made from strained yogurt and mixed with cucumbers, garlic, salt, olive oil and lemon juice.

Serves 4

Ready in

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

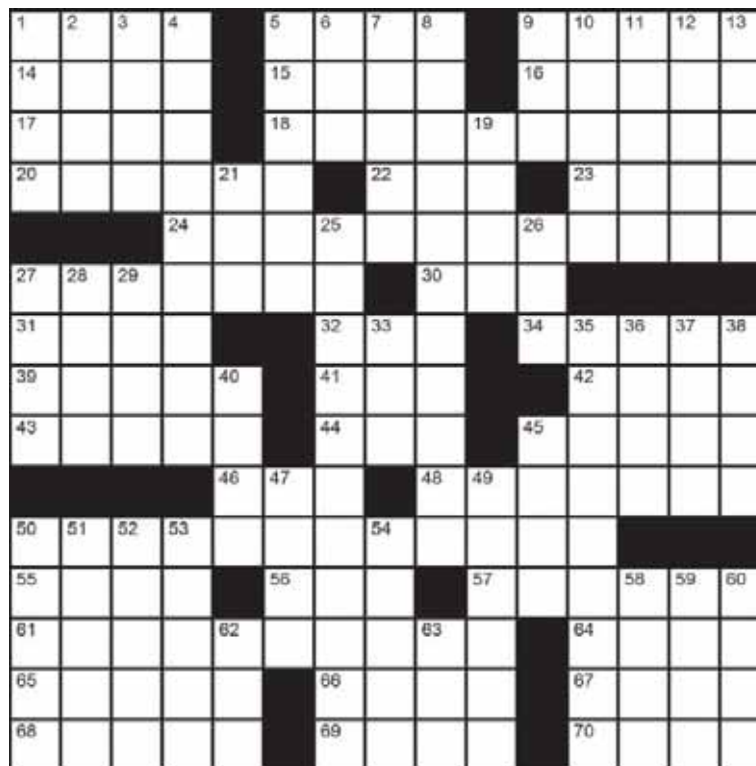
- Burger
- 1 lb ground lean beef
- 3 Tbsp diced onions
- 1/4 cup bread crumbs
- 3 Tbsp barbecue sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp dried basil
- Garnish
- 1/4 cup tzatziki (store-bought)

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Mr. Cumming
5. Embassy worker, e.g.
9. Lathers
14. Shark type
15. "...tete, Alouette..."
16. 'The Hub' of Nova Scotia
17. Send forth
18. Beheld: 3 wds.
20. "Citizen Kane" (1941) estate
22. Big Apple newspaper, briefly
23. Sparkling wine city of Italy
24. Lotto Max's jackpot cap introduced this summer: 2 wds.
27. Environs
30. Do movies
31. Tennis great Mr. Nastase
32. US television station
34. Couches
39. Van _ & Arpels (Jewellery house)
41. Do movie soundtrack work
42. Farewell, to Catullus
43. Neutral tone
44. Seedy sandwich selection
45. Curt
46. 1977 Steely Dan album
48. Victoria, The _ Capital of British Columbia
50. Song from Hair co-written by Canada's very own Galt MacDermot: 4 wds.
55. "Away!"
56. L'Isle _-Coud-



- res, Quebec
57. Apply hairspray
61. Tweety's co-star Sylvester, for one: 2 wds.
64. "Right back _!" (Likewise)
65. Matthew McConaughey's wife Camila

66. Montreal-born singer Mr. Vannelli
67. "Jenny _": Paul McCartney ballad
68. 'Gang' suffixes (Criminals)
69. Canadian writer Mr. Martel
70. NASDAQ rival

DOWN

1. Charge card, e.g.
2. Priest of Tibet
3. Alike
4. Awake, basically: 2 wds.
5. Sumptuous
6. "Give _ rest already!"
7. _'the'Elder (Roman

- author of the encyclopedia Naturalis Historia)
8. Shakespeare... She who exclaimed "Out, damn'd spot! out, I say!": 2 wds.
9. Farm enclosure
10. L' _ (Cosmetics brand)

11. Also, in Abitibi
12. Prefix to 'type' (Mock-up)
13. _-_-law (Family member)
19. 'Synth' suffix
21. Nero's 502
25. Mode of transport in Churchill, Manitoba for tourists viewing polar bears: 2 wds.
26. Fire dept. ranks
27. Ancient Scot
28. "The Producers" (2005) role
29. Andre _ (Dutch violinist/conductor)
33. Purchase
35. Like a bank account without sufficient funds
36. 'Yukon's Best Kept Secret' town
37. To boot
38. Feel
40. Achievement
45. Baseball field covering
47. Comic actress Ms. Cusack
49. Songstress Sheena
50. "Como _?" = "How are you?" in Spanish
51. Grind to _
52. Figure out
53. Oxen harness maker, say
54. _-_- agent (Former employee of The Company)
58. Macy Gray hit: 2 wds.
59. Nautical ropes
60. "Titanic" (1997) star Billy
62. Mag. edition
63. Ms. Jillian

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Someone will turn up the pressure on you today but you refuse to be beaten. There is a determination about Aries that makes you a formidable enemy. The more others attack the more you will dig in your heels.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Every suggestion you make lately seems to be met with disapproval. You won't change their attitude, so you might as well go off by yourself and do your own thing.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something dramatic is likely to happen either to you directly or to others in such a way that it affects you as well. Keep your wits about you and no harm will come.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your beliefs and opinions will come under fire today and there may be a very good reason for it. Could it be that some of your ideas went out of fashion years ago? Maybe it's time to bring yourself more up to date.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You have huge responsibilities and you may be tempted to run away from them. But the only way to lessen the burden of your responsibilities is to fulfill them to the letter.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you like a challenge then you will enjoy what happens today. No matter how tough the task you face, or how strong the opposition, you must not back down.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You must trust your instincts even if everyone else seems to be moving in a different direction. Sometimes logic is not the best guide and sometimes it pays not to follow the herd.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Be friendly with everyone you meet today. Some people will be less than friendly in return but it's about how you choose to behave, not how a minority of idiots choose to react.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There can be no more playing around — you must make a decision and you must make it now. It won't be easy and not everyone will approve, but if you don't act now you may never get the chance.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It might be unwise to speak your mind today, even if you are in the right and someone else is in the wrong. You are going to have to work closely with this person in the future, so think before you speak.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Cosmic activity in the wealth area of your chart means you need to tighten your belt now so you can enjoy the benefits later on. The less you spend today the more cash will be available to spend tomorrow.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Confrontation is likely today. Resist the urge to pull rank on people you work with, because they will get back at you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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